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DE RUEHKO #7185 3630234
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P 290234Z DEC 06
FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 9474
RUEKJCS/SECDEF WASHDC PRIORITY
RUCPDOG/USDOC WASHDC PRIORITY
RUEATRS/DEPT OF TREASURY WASHINGTON DC PRIORITY
RUYNAAAC/COMNAVFORJAPAN YOKOSUKA JA PRIORITY
RHHMUNA/HQ USPACOM HONOLULU HI PRIORITY
RHHMHBA/COMPACFLT PEARL HARBOR HI//N541// PRIORITY
RHMFIUU/HQ PACAF HICKAM AFB HI//CC/PA// PRIORITY
RUHBANB/OKINAWA FLD OFC US FORCES JAPAN CP BUTLER JA PRIORITY
RHMFIUU/COMUSJAPAN YOKOTA AB JA PRIORITY
INFO RUEHFK/AMCONSUL FUKUOKA 9375
RUEHOK/AMCONSUL OSAKA KOBE 2818
RUEHBJ/AMEMBASSY BEIJING 5345
RUEHMO/AMEMBASSY MOSCOW 1452
RUEHUL/AMEMBASSY SEOUL 1435
RUCNDT/USMISSION USUN NEW YORK 2893
RHEHAAA/NSC WASHDC

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STATE FOR I/RF, PA/PR/FPC/W, IIP/G/EA, EAP/PD, R/MR,
EAP/J, EAP/P, PM;
USTR FOR PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICE;
TREASURY FOR OASIA/IMI;
SECDEF FOR OASD/PA;
CP BUTLER OKINAWA FOR AREA FIELD OFFICE;
PACOM HONOLULU FOR PUBLIC DIPLOMACY ADVISOR

E.O. 12958: N/A

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SUBJECT: MEDIA REACTION Q IRAQ - TOKYO

LEAD STORIES: Friday morning's Asahi front-paged a GOJ plan to conclude a General Security of Military Information Agreement (GSOMIA) with the U.S.

11. "Prudence Needed in Final Approval of Saddam's Execution" The moderate Tokyo Shimbun editorialized (12/29): "The death sentence for former Iraqi President Saddam Hussein has been finalized. Despite this, if Saddam's execution is carried out hurriedly, it will intensify sectarian strife, which has already left Iraq in a state of civil war. Prudence is needed in Iraq's final judgment of Saddam's execution so as not to add fuel to the chaos which grips the nation.... Under current Iraqi rules, Saddam is to be executed within 30 days after the Iraqi High Appeals Court upheld his death sentence. It is natural that the former dictator should be tried and sentenced for the crimes he committed while he was in power. But Iraq's courts were established with capital punishment restored under the US military administration. Given the fact that Iraq's trial of Saddam Hussein received full U.S. support, we cannot help but get the impression that Saddam's death sentence was inevitable from the beginning. The UN and international human rights groups are skeptical about the fairness of the Saddam trial, which came to an end only 14 months after the initial hearing.... While the Iraqi president and vice president need to sign off on Saddam's execution, President Talabani is said to be less than supportive of the execution."

DONOVAN